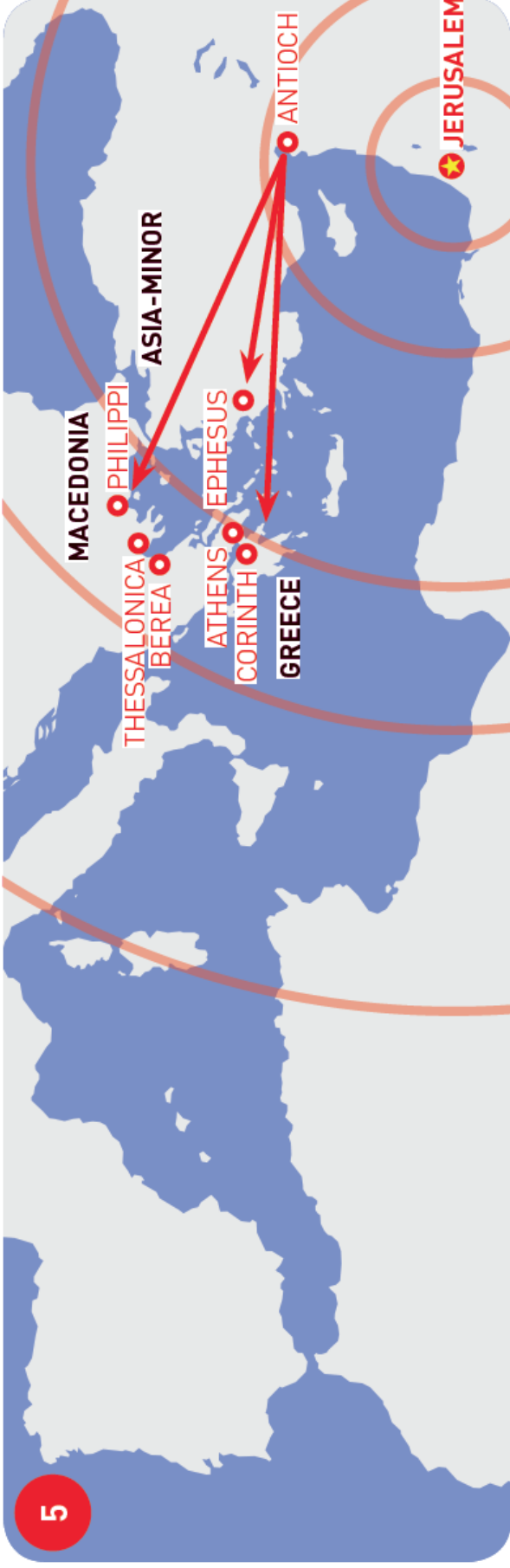


Terrace Studies Term 1, 2017

Jesus Changes Everything

ACTS 16-19

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16:6 - 21:16 THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO EUROPE

- 16:6 - 17:15 Guided and empowered by the Spirit, Paul and Silas bring the gospel to Macedonia, namely in the cities of Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea. Despite them being imprisoned, beaten and lynched, many come to faith in Jesus: Lydia and her household (16:14-15), the Philippian jailer and his family (16:30-34), a few Jews, many devout Greeks and several leading women (17:4-5, 12).
.....
- 17:16 - 18:22 Despite Paul being mocked for his belief in the resurrection in Athens, some men and women join him and trust in Jesus (17:34). Likewise in Corinth, despite strong opposition from the Jews, Crispus the ruler of the Synagogue, his whole household and many Corinthians believe the gospel and are baptised (18:8).
.....
- 18:23 - 19:41 Paul speaks for two years in Ephesus 'so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks' (19:10). After Paul performs extraordinary healings and exorcisms in the name of Jesus, fear falls on the residents, who praise the name of Jesus and many repent of their evil practices. 'So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.' (19:20)
.....
- 20:1 - 21:16 Paul travels throughout Macedonia and Greece, encouraging, instructing and farewelling the churches of these regions, as well as the Ephesian elders, on his way to Jerusalem.

The Cities of Acts 16-19

City	Details	Date visited	Comments
Philippi	<i>Region: Macedonia (Greece)</i> Roman Colony, leading city of region Pop ~5-10,000	~49AD	Letter to Philippians written 8-10 years later (Paul in prison)
Thessalonica	<i>Region: Macedonia (Greece)</i> Provincial capital, flourishing seaport and commercial centre. Pop ~40-65,000	~49AD	~165 kms from Philippi
Berea	<i>Region: Macedonia (Greece)</i>	~49/50AD	~70 kms from Thessalonica
Athens	<i>Region: Achaia (Greece)</i> Centre of intellectual and philosophical speculation. Pop ~30,000; est over ~73,000 statues	~50AD	~360 kms from Berea by land
Corinth	<i>Region: Achaia (Greece)</i> Harbour city, provincial capital. Pop ~80,000, theatre could seat 15,000	~50-52AD	~85 kms from Athens. Letters to Thessalonians written around this time.
Ephesus	<i>Region: Asia (Turkey)</i> One of largest cities of Empire, pop ~200,000 Temple of Artemis one of seven wonders of ancient world. (4x larger than Parthenon in Athens)	~52-55	1 Corinthians letter written around this time.

Information mostly from Schnabel, Acts Exegetical Commentary (Zondervan, 2012)

Talk 1: Jesus brings salvation Philippi

A Contiki Tour

Why?

Challenge:

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)

Comfort:

The Book of Acts

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. (Acts 1:8)

Events	Reference	Possible Date
Jesus resurrection & ascension, Pentecost	Acts 1-2	~33AD
Stoning of Stephen & persecution of church Paul's conversion	Acts 7 Acts 9	33-34
Paul's visit to Jerusalem	Acts 9:26-28, Gal 1:18-20	~35
Antioch church established "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch"	Acts 11:19-26	~35
James executed	Acts 12:1-2	~43/44
Paul's second visit to Jerusalem	Acts 11:27-30	~46/47
PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (through Cilicia, Pamphylia, Galatia & Cyprus)	Acts 13-14	~47/48
The Jerusalem Council	Acts 15:1-35	49
**PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY	Acts 15:36-18:22	49-52
Paul returns via Jerusalem to Antioch		
**PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY	Acts 18:23-20:38	52-57
Paul to Jerusalem Imprisoned in Caesarea Travel to Rome	Acts 21-23 Acts 24-26 Acts 27-28	57-60
Paul's Roman imprisonment and probable death		60-65

Adapted from John Stott, *The Message of Acts* (Proclamation Trust Media, 2007), p19-20 and David Cook, *Teaching Acts* (IVP, 1990) p16-17.

This missionary journey

Why?

1. To strengthen existing churches
Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." (Acts 15:36)

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. (Acts 16:5)
2. To deliver the message of the Jerusalem council
As they travelled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. (Acts 16:4)

3. To preach the gospel

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:9-10)

Who with?

Not Barnabas

Silas

Timothy

Others, including Luke

When?**Where?****Salvation in Philippi**

1. Salvation for the God-fearer (Lydia)

2. Salvation from spiritual bondage (slave girl)

3. Salvation for the seeker (jailer)

^{15b} Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:15b-16).

The church in Philippi

- Growing in maturity

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:3-6)

- Grown in number

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: (Phil 1:1b)

- Generous

¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. (Phil 4:15-16)

- Beloved by Paul

God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. (Phil 1:8)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! (Phil 4:1)

Study 1: Philippi

Get to know one another.

1. If you are a believer, did you come to salvation:
 - from a God-fearing background?
 - from a situation of release?
 - asking questions after a major event?
 - other?

2. If you are not a believer, where do you stand at the moment? Are you still investigating? Doubtful? Other?

Share these stories briefly with one another.

3. Can you think of people you know who are like Lydia? 'God-fearers', open to the possibility of the Lordship of Christ, just do not know it or grasp it yet?

How could you speak to them of Jesus?

4. Can you think of people you know who are like the jailer? Have faced / are facing major life circumstances and asking big questions?

How could you speak to them of Jesus?

Pray together, praising God for the various ways he brings people to salvation.

Study 2: Thessalonica and Berea

Read Acts 17:1-15.

1. What does Paul preach?
2. How does Paul preach?
3. What is the main response of the Jews to Paul's preaching in Thessalonica? What responses have you seen when people reject the gospel? Why do you think people respond this way?
4. What is the main response of the Jews to Paul's preaching in Berea? Why?
5. In your personal story of faith – how important was/is examining the scriptures for truth?

6. Turning to the New Testament letters, what do we learn about the Thessalonian church and their relationship with Paul from:
- 1 Thessalonians 1
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-12
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13-15a
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:4-9
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 *Note: Thessalonica and Berea (and Philippi) are in Macedonia.*

Choose one godly characteristic of the people of Thessalonica that you would like to grow in. Share these with one another and bring these things to God in prayer.

c. No neutral response

3. Suffer for Jesus

a. The cost of following Jesus

b. Remember the joy of following Jesus

Study 3: Athens

Read Acts 17:16-34.

1. What distressed Paul in Athens? Why? What did he do in response?
2. How is Paul's approach in Athens different from Philippi and Thessalonica/Berea?
3. What idols of today distress you? Why?
4. What idols have you stopped being distressed by? Why?

5. Think about people you know who have no real knowledge of God or Jesus. How could you find a connection point with them and then lead the conversation to God or Jesus?
- Consider someone who is very interested in their hobby – perhaps craft or following sport.
 - Consider someone who puts most of their energy into their children and parenting / grandparenting.
 - Consider someone whose attention is mainly on their job.
 - Any other ideas?

Share with one another about one person you would love to know Jesus who has no real knowledge of Him. Pray for those people and for opportunities to share with them.

Talk 3: Jesus is for Everyone Athens

1. A city of idols

2. Paul's approach
 - a. Synagogue
 - b. Marketplace

 - b. Areopagus

3. Paul's speech
 - a. You can know the unknown

 - b. The God you can know
 - i. Creator of the universe

 - ii. Sustainer of life

 - iii. Ruler of the universe

iv. Father of humanity

v. Judge of the world

c. What happened next?

4. What we learn from Paul in Athens

a. Be respectful

b. Be relevant

c. Speak the truth

d. Jesus is for everyone

Some thoughts from

Study 4: Corinth

Read Acts 18:1-18b.

Note Paul's approach is similar again: preach to Jews and Gentiles and then continue with those who are interested.

1. How does the Lord instruct Paul? What is the result?

After at least 18 months in Corinth, Paul leaves going via Ephesus back to Jerusalem (ending the 'second' missionary journey) then goes back to Antioch (18:18-23). He later goes out again through Galatia to encourage the churches (beginning the 'third' missionary journey). See the maps on pages 30-31.

2. During this time of Paul's travels, we learn of Apollos in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-19:1a).

How is Apollos received in Corinth? What does he do there?

[Note: Corinth is in the region of Achaia, 19:1 specifies Corinth particularly.]

3. Under the leadership of Paul and then Apollos – what might you imagine the Corinthian church would look like?

1 Corinthians was written a few years later, when Paul was ministering in Ephesus (see 1 Cor 16:5-9).

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9. How does Paul think of them?

5. What are some of the issues in the Corinthian church?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:11-12 and 3:1-6, 21-23

 - 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; 6:15-18

 - 1 Corinthians 6:1, 5-8

 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

 - 2 Corinthians 12:20-21

6. Considering the church's heritage - do these problems surprise you? Why or why not?

7. How are you encouraged by 2 Corinthians 7:5-16?

Pray for your churches, that they will live according to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 13:11 & 14.

Talk 4: Living to Honour Jesus Corinth

1. Time in Corinth
 - a. Preached the word (v4-5)
 - b. Fellow workers and fellow-believers
 - c. Conflict
 - d. Conversion (v7-8)
 - e. Assurance (v9-11)
 - f. Conflict (v12-17)

Study 5: Ephesus

1. Read Acts 18:18-23 & 19:1a. See where Paul went over this time, using the maps on pages 30-31. These verses cover several months of travel.

Ephesus is in Asia (modern day Turkey).

- When did Paul previously try to go to Asia? What happened? (see 16:6-8)
- Now he does a flying visit past Ephesus on his way elsewhere (18:19-20). How do you think he makes these decisions?

Acts 19:1-7 tells of some followers of John the Baptist who have not heard of the fulfilment of Jesus as Messiah. Paul tells them, they believe and are baptized into the Christian faith.

2. Read Acts 19:8-22.

- What did Paul do in Ephesus?
- How did God act through Paul in Ephesus?
- How did God change people in Ephesus?

3. Read Acts 19:23-41.

- What was the true motive for Demetrius against Paul?
- What was his stated motive when raised with others?

We have seen multiple times that the stated objection to Jesus is not always the actual objection to Jesus.

(In Philippi, the stated objection was concern over upholding Roman practice. The real objection was loss of income. In Thessalonica, the stated objection was treason, being a threat to Caesar. The real objection was jealousy.)

- What are some situations where people have raised an issue about Jesus, but you know it's not their real issue with Him?

4. A few months later, Paul met with the Ephesian leaders on his return journey to Jerusalem. How did he reflect on his time in Ephesus (Acts 20:17-35)?

5. Think about how knowing Jesus has changed your life. Perhaps consider any similarities with Paul's life or the changes in the Ephesians as a starting point.

Give thanks to God for the changes Jesus has made in you and pray that he will continue to make you more like Jesus in the years to come. Pray in accordance with Acts 20:24 for each other.

3. Jesus changes public life

4. Jesus changes everything

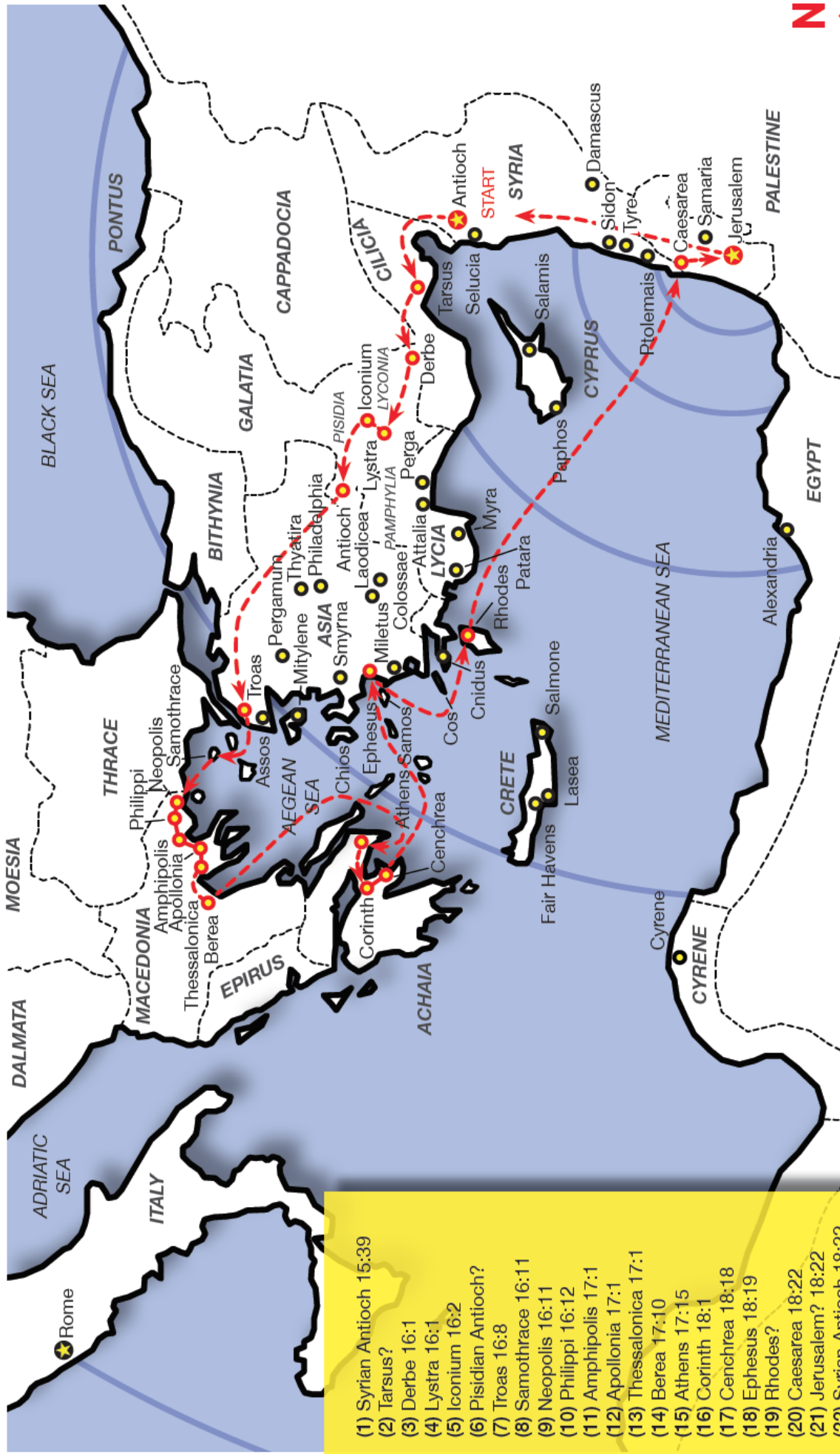
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PRAYER POINTS

PAUL'S SECOND MISSION ACTS 15:39 - 18:22 AD 49-52

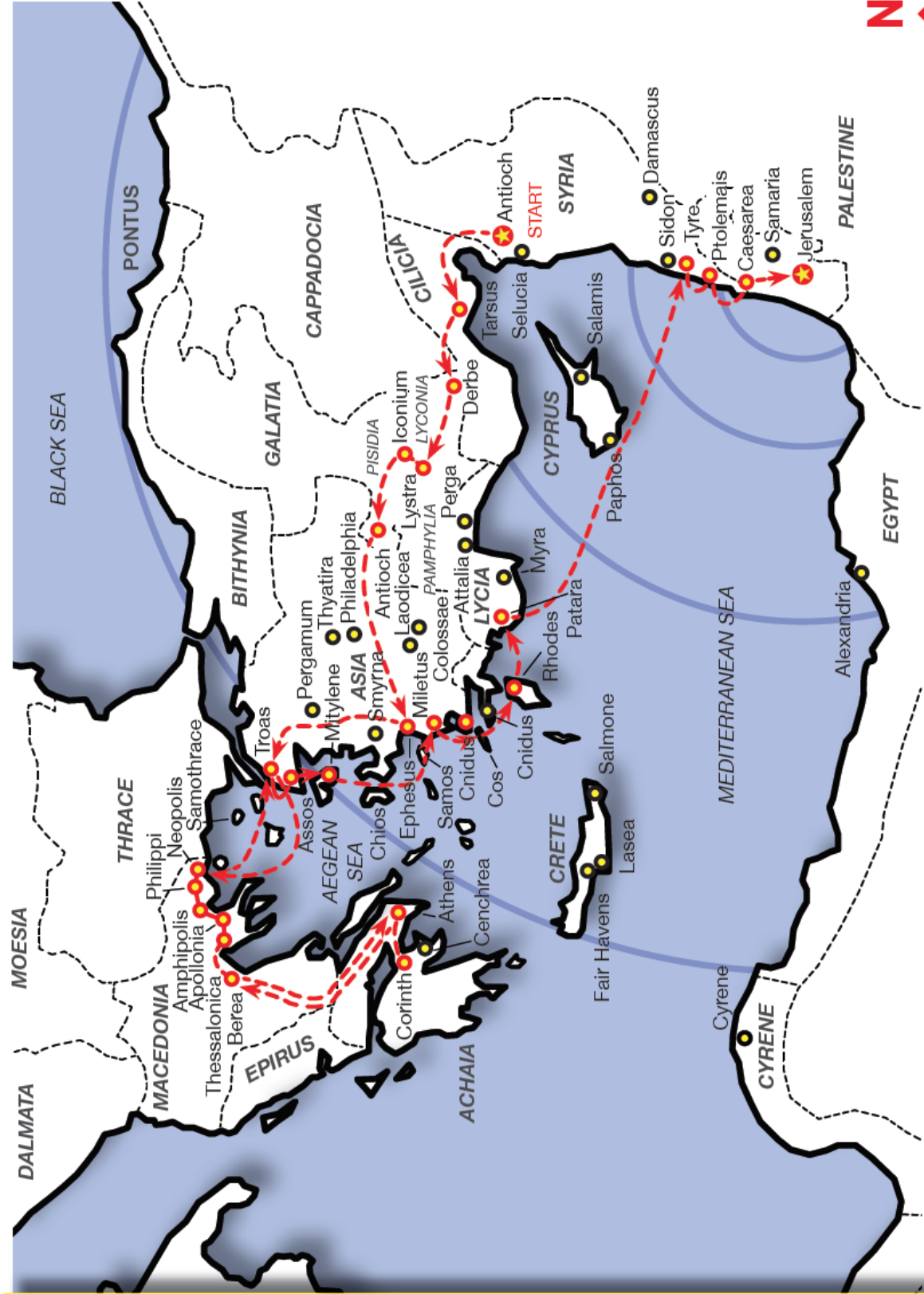
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- (1) Syrian Antioch 15:39
- (2) Tarsus?
- (3) Derbe 16:1
- (4) Lystra 16:1
- (5) Iconium 16:2
- (6) Pisidian Antioch?
- (7) Troas 16:8
- (8) Samothrace 16:11
- (9) Neopolis 16:11
- (10) Philippi 16:12
- (11) Amphipolis 17:1
- (12) Apollonia 17:1
- (13) Thessalonica 17:1
- (14) Berea 17:10
- (15) Athens 17:15
- (16) Corinth 18:1
- (17) Cenchrea 18:18
- (18) Ephesus 18:19
- (19) Rhodes?
- (20) Caesarea 18:22
- (21) Jerusalem? 18:22
- (22) Syrian Antioch 18:22

PAUL'S THIRD MISSION ACTS 18:23 - 21:17 AD 53-57

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- (1) Syrian Antioch 18:23
- (2) Tarsus?
- (3) Derbe?
- (4) Lystra?
- (5) Iconium?
- (6) Pisidian Antioch? 18:23
- (7) Ephesus 19:1
- (8) Troas?
- (9) Neopolis? 20:1
- (10) Philippi? 20:1
- (11) Amphipolis? 20:1
- (12) Apollonia? 20:1
- (13) Thessalonica? 20:1
- (14) Berea? 20:1
- (15) Athens? 20:2
- (16) Corinth? 20:2
- (17) Athens? 20:2
- (18) Berea? 20:3
- (19) Thessalonica? 20:3
- (20) Apollonia? 20:3
- (21) Amphipolis? 20:3
- (22) Philippi? 20:6
- (23) Neopolis? 20:6
- (24) Troas 20:6
- (25) Assos 20:13
- (26) Mitylene 20:14
- (27) Chios 20:15
- (28) Samos 20:15
- (29) Miletus 20:15
- (30) Cos 21:1
- (31) Rhodes 21:1
- (32) Patara 21:1
- (33) Tyre 21:3
- (34) Ptolemais 21:7
- (35) Caesarea 21:8
- (36) Jerusalem 21:17

